



DISASTER NEWS

Economic Injury Loans for Small Businesses

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Disaster Assistance Available for Small Businesses

Sacramento, CA – Small, non-farm businesses in 50 California counties (plus two neighboring counties in Nevada) may now apply for low-interest disaster loans from the U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA). These disaster loans offset economic losses because of reduced revenues to farmers and ranchers caused by the unprecedented rainfall and severe weather conditions that occurred in the following 29 primary California counties from December 17, 2005 through April 26, 2006, announced Alfred E. Judd, Director of SBA's Disaster Field Operations Center - West.

Primary California counties:

Alameda	Amador	Butte	Calaveras	Contra Costa
El Dorado	Fresno	Glenn	Humboldt	Kings
Lake	Madera	Mendocino	Merced	Nevada
Plumas	Sacramento	San Joaquin	San Mateo	Shasta
Sierra	Solano	Sonoma	Stanislaus	Sutter
Tehama	Tulare	Yolo	Yuba	

Neighboring California counties:

Alpine	Colusa	Del Norte	Inyo	Kern
Lassen	Marin	Mariposa	Modoc	Mono
Monterey	Napa	Placer	San Benito	San Francisco
San Luis Obispo	Santa Clara	Santa Cruz	Siskiyou	Trinity
Tuolumne				

Neighboring Nevada counties:

Douglas	Washoe
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Small businesses may qualify for Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs) of up to \$1.5 million to help meet financial obligations and operating expenses which could have been met had the disaster not occurred. "Eligibility for these working capital loans is based on the financial impact of the disaster only and not on any actual property damage. These loans have an interest rate of 4%, a maximum term of 30 years, and are restricted to small businesses without the financial ability to offset the adverse impact without hardship," Judd said.

By law, SBA makes EIDLs available when the U. S. Secretary of Agriculture designates an agricultural disaster. Secretary Mike Johanns declared this disaster at the request of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Businesses primarily engaged in farming or ranching are not eligible for SBA disaster assistance. Agricultural enterprises should contact the Farm Services Agency (FSA) about the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) assistance made available by the Secretary's declaration.

For information and application forms, call toll-free (800) 659-2955, or visit SBA's website at www.sba.gov/disaster. Hearing impaired individuals may call (800) 877-8339. Mail completed applications to the U. S. Small Business Administration at 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

The deadline to apply for these loans is **February 15, 2007**.

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